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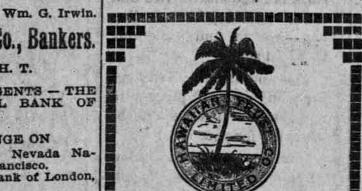
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application.

Importers Will Fight for Lower Duty.

Honolulu importers of sake from Japan will endeavor to recover from the United States government about \$100,-000 paid in duty to Collector Stackable, which they claim is in excess of the amount they should have been assessed. Col. Thos. Fitch has been employed as counsel and will leave on the China next week for New York, where he will fight the case before the General Board of Appraisers.

For the past two years and over sake, the national Japanese drink, has been imported into Hawaii in large quantities. Collector Stackable has been assessing the duty upon the liquor at fifty cents per gallon holding that it is distilled. The Japanese merchants and other importers claim sake is a the tariff act, only at the rate of twenty cents per gallon. Every gallon of sake received at Honolulu has been assessed at the higher figure, and though the duty was always paid, the importer always entered a protest, and an appeal was taken in each case to the Treasury Department.

The hearing of the first case has been set for December 18th in New York City before the Board of General Appraisers. Upon this test case nearly a hundred similar appeals will be decided, the decision of the appraisers governing all.

The amount involved is about \$100,-000 which has been paid into the treasury under protest, and if the Board of | General Appraisers decide in favor of the Honolulu importers, this amount | must be refunded.

The case is important also in that it will govern the future action of the collector in levying the duty upon sake. There is said to be a difference of opinion between the customs and internal revenue departments as to the classification of sake. Collector Stackable classifies it as distilled spirits at fifty cents per gallon, while the internal revenue department holds it to be a fermented liquid. The matter has never been passed upon by the Apprais-

Col. Fitch will also visit Washington, on his present trip where he expects to present the Marcus Island claim before the State Department. He will remain away about two months.

IMMIGRATION COMPANIES

The following items are translated from the Osaka Asahi:

According to the report of the Japanese Consul at Hawaii there is much trouble between the emigration companies and emigrants who are returning home about the return of money deposited by them under the old contract. Among the companies concerned the Japan Emigration Co. and the Tokyo Emigration Co. are the principal enes. The emigrants' money has been deposited out of their wages under contract, for their assistance in case of accidents and for their expenses when returning home. The companies refuse, however, to pay the money back, and the notice of the authorities is being

brought to the matter. The true character of many existing emigration companies is being gradually exposed, showing them to be only eager to make profits, they being utterly disregardful of the interests of the emigrants. The prevalence of certain evil practices is ascribed as due in great measure to the small capital of the companies, and a proposal is now made to incorporate them and to establish one influential company instead of allowing a large number of small ones to remain in existence. It is stated that the Foreign Office has issued instructions to the Governor of each prefecture to grant passports only to those emigrants sent by companies having a capital of over Y50,000.-The Garden

Tiger Year in Japan.

In the beginning of this year some Japanese papers were drawing attention to the fact that this being a Tiger's year there would be no luck throughout the year. To the uninitiated, it may be explained that each year in the Japanese calendar is accorded after the name of an animal after the old Chinese zodiac of twelve signs, and the old superstition looks upon these Tiger years as being the disastrous and eventful one. Curious to say, the year is not gring to close after all, without satisfying the superstitious. The cholera broke out in the early part of last July and has been epidemic ever since. ated the whole population of the island. Then followed the disastrous inundations and tidal wave in Northern Japan. Prospect of the rice crop is not SAVINGS DEPOSITS received and so bright now as it was in the early interest allowed for yearly deposits at part of the year. The last mail again reports some cases of Bubonic plague breaking out in Yokohama. Indeed: Rules and regulations furnished upon the tiger year does seem very unlucky for Japan,-Osaka Asahi.



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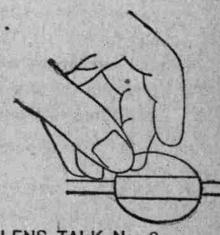
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